

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EPA-01 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00

COA-01 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 IO-10 L-02 NSF-01 NSC-05

NSAE-00 PM-03 RSC-01 OES-03 SS-15 SP-02 DLOS-03 /079 W

----- 104645

R 200920Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1861

COMDT COGARD WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CNO WASHDC

CINCPAC FLEET MAKALAPA

CINCPAC HON HI

DIA WASHDC

CCGDFOURTEEN HONOLULU HI

COMPACAREA COGARD SAN FRANCISCO CA

COMLANTAREA COGARD NEW YORK NY

COMCOGARD SEASEC BANGKOK TH

NST ATLANTIC ELIZABETH CITY NC

NST GULF BAY ST LOUIS MS

NST PACAFIC SAN FRANCISCO CA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 0273

DEPT ALSO PASS TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHDC

EPA FOR K. BIGLANE, DIVISION OF OIL AND SPECIAL MATERIALS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS EWWT SENV TGEN SN

SUBJ: USCG ASSISTANCE TO JAPANESE TANKER SHOWA MARU

1.SHOWA MARU PUMPING OPERATIONS AUGMENTED BY US COAST GUARD
EQUIPMENT AND MANPOWER RESUMED APPROX 0800 JAN 9 AND CONTINUED

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THROUGHOUT DAY UNTIL SUNSET AT 1900. TOTAL OF 10,521 METRIC

TONS OFFLOADED ON JAN 9. PUMPING OPERATIONS UTILIZING CG PUMPS LIMITED TO DAYLIGHT HOURS. VESSELS INTERNAL PUMPING SYSTEM ACTIVATED AT NIGHT TO PUMP OIL INTO USEABLE WING TANKS. CG COMMANDER ESTIMATES ENTIRE OFFLOADING OPERATION WILL TAKE APPROX 14 DAYS. CONDITION OF SMOWA MARU STABLE WITH NO FURTHER LEAKING REPORTED.

2. ON JAN 18 ABC STRINGER PROVIDED RADIO AND TV COVERAGE OF CG TEAM SETTING UP PUMPING EQUIPMENT ON TANKER.

3. EPA OBSERVER DR. HAROLD SNYDER IN PROCESS OBTAINING BACKGROUND INFORMATION FROM GOS AGENCIES. DR. SNYDER REPORTS LIMITED INFORMATION OBTAINED TO DATE BUT WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE INQUIRIES. GOS HAS INDICATED TO SNYDER THAT NO SINGAPORE SHORE AREAS WERE AFFECTED BY FLOATING OIL. SNYDER ALSO ATTEMPTING TO CONFIRM WHILE IN SINGAPORE REPORTS THAT INDONESIAN ISLANDS NEAR SPILL SITE HAVE HAD SHORE IMPACTS. LOGISTICS PROBLEMS WILL MAKE INVESTIGATION INTO THESE AREAS DIFFICULT, SNYDER PURSUING POSSIBILITY OF VISUAL INSPECTION.

4. SOON AFTER ARRIVAL DR. SNYDER WAS CONTACTED BY MR. JOHN A. BENNETT OF BENNETT POLLUTION CONTROLS LTD., VANCOUVER, B.C., WHO IS UNDER CONTRACT BY ENVIRONMENT CANADA (CANADIAN GOVERNMENT EPA COUNTERPART) TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATION OF SHOWA MARU OIL SPILL CLEAN-UP METHODS AND DISPERSANT USAGE. SNYDER AND BENNETT KEEPING IN CLOSE COMMUNICATION AND SHARING INFORMATION. EMBASSY HAS ALSO RECEIVED THROUGH EMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST BY GOM IN SENDING MALAYSIAN ENVIRONMENTALIST TO OBSERVE MARINE POLLUTION EFFECTS. DR. SNYDER WILLING TO MEET MALAYSIAN SCIENTIST AND EXCHANGE INFORMATION.

5. SNYDER HAS NOT YET DETERMINED FEASIBILITY OF EPA PERFORMING "FATE AND EFFECTS" STUDIES IN THE AREA.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Reason:
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05 JUL 2006

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